

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) No.

(b) No portion of the *kari* lands is available for assignment.

(c) Yes. 25 applications have been received. No portion of the *kari* lands has been assigned to the applicants. The applications have been struck off as they relate to lands reserved for grazing and for the growth of *era* grass necessary for putting up bunds round *puncha* lands.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know if the whole land is required for grazing and for the growth of grass?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

*Assignment of Vechur Kari to Depressed Classes.*

41. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether a portion of the Vechur *kari* lands in the Vaikam taluk will be granted to members of the depressed classes?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 40.

*Licenses for Fire-arms.*

42. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the applications for licenses for fire-arms for the year 1099, presented to the Division Peishkar, Kottayam, in Karkadakam, 1098, were pending the issue of licenses until the 15th Kanni, 1099?

(b) Are the Government aware that the present practice which compels applicants for renewal of licenses for fire-arms to deposit their fire-arms in the police station, pending the issue of licenses, is productive of much hardship and loss to the people?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to arrange that, as is done in the neighbouring State of Cochin, fire-arms need be deposited in the police station only in the case of applications for fresh licenses, but that in the case of applications for the renewal of time-expired licenses, fire-arms need not be deposited in the police stations?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Of the 1,189 applications received during Karkadakam, 1098, 976 had been disposed of and 213 were pending on the 15th Kanni, 1099. 167 of the pending applications were also disposed of before the close of Kanni, 1099.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) Applicants for renewal of licenses are not compelled to deposit their arms in police stations, but under Section 11 of the Travancore Arms Regulation, V of 1084, "any person possessing arms, ammunition or military stores, the possession whereof by him has in consequence of the cancellation or expiry of a license become unlawful, shall deposit the same without unnecessary delay with the officer in charge of the nearest police station." If applications for renewal are made sufficiently early, the necessity for depositing arms in the nearest police station may be obviated.

*Portions of the Periyar River under the Control of the Forest Department.*

43. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (Muvattupuzha):

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the portions of the Periyar river, flowing through the Kuttamangalam and Kotamangalam *pakuthies* of the Muvattupuzha taluk, are included in the reserve and placed under the control of the Forest Department?

(b) Are the Government aware that several registered wet and dry lands are included in the said *pakuthies*, that they are situated on the southern bank of the river, and that they contain human habitations also?

(c) Are the Forest Officers competent to take up cases against the people, penalising such acts as the taking up of cattle through the river and the use of the river for bathing purposes and for boat traffic?

(d) If so, will the Government, in the interests of the ryots concerned and for the protection of their cattle, exclude these places from the control of the Forest Department and make them available for the use of the public?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government):

(a) and (b) Portions of the Periyar river flowing through the Kotamangalam and Kuttamangalam *pakuthies* and most of the registered lands on the southern bank of it fall outside the reserve forest.

(c) and (d) The restrictions under the Forest Regulation apply only to reserve forests. Specific cases of hardship resulting from such restrictions will be enquired into and remedied as far as possible.

*System of Grant of Agricultural Loans.*

44. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (Muvattupuzha): Will the Government be pleased to give effect to the following measures with a view to enable the poor ryots to secure greater benefits under the existing system of granting agricultural loans:

(a) that there should be a restriction to the effect that no one will be entitled to a loan exceeding Rs. 1,000;

(b) that loans will be given only to those whose occupation is agriculture; and